



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

February 28, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Public Comment Period for Proposed Amendments to Michigan's
Approved Request for ESEA Flexibility

In July 2012, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) approved Michigan's request for flexibility in implementing certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).

This flexibility approval allows local school districts more freedom in how they use some federal dollars to improve student achievement and close achievement gaps; recognizes schools that are meeting or exceeding achievement goals; ensures that all students have access to effective educators; and includes a new accountability scorecard to measure student achievement and growth in schools and districts. Moreover, the approved ESEA flexibility alleviates the impending consequences of the NCLB requirement that 100 percent of students demonstrate academic proficiency by 2014, replacing the mandate and subsequent consequences with an appropriate timeline and targeted supports to meet student growth and proficiency goals.

As part of the request, Michigan pledged to continuously monitor the implementation of the ESEA Flexibility and make changes as necessary in order to best serve students, families, and educators. Two amendments to the approved ESEA Flexibility Request were approved in December 2012. Ongoing implementation of the ESEA Flexibility, and continued discussions with stakeholders, have highlighted the need for three additional amendments to the approved request to make improvements that will

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facilitate and refine the implementation process. If approved, these amendments will

1. Remove the Choice/Transfer requirement for Focus and Priority schools.
2. Provide a tiered Title I set-aside requirement based on the number of years a school is identified on the Focus Schools list.
3. Adjust the metric used to generate the Top-to-Bottom list to modify the impact of extreme outliers in identifying Focus Schools.

Michigan's Proposed Amendments to the approved Request for ESEA Flexibility are now available for review and public comment at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-37818_60094---,00.html.

Public comment will be open until March 6, 2013.

All comments should be submitted to ESEAFlexibility@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance